



## SAFETY REPORT

**Quick Tips on Motorcycle Safety. The more you ignore, the higher your peril:**

### Be visible:

- Remember that motorists often have trouble seeing motorcycles and reacting in time.
- Make sure your headlight works and is on day and night.
- Use reflective strips or decals on your clothing and on your motorcycle.
- Be aware of the blind spots cars and trucks have.
- Flash your brake light when you are slowing down and before stopping.
- If a motorist doesn't see you, don't be afraid to use your horn.

### Dress for safety:

- Wear a quality helmet and eye protection.
- Wear bright clothing and a light-colored helmet - *ouch*.
- Wear leather or other thick, protective clothing.
- Choose long sleeves and pants, over-the-ankle boots, and gloves.
- Remember – the only thing between you and the road is your protective gear.

### Apply effective mental strategies:

- Constantly search the road for changing conditions, vehicles *approaching an intersection* or slowing down to *turn across your path*.
- Give yourself space and time to respond to other motorists' actions.
- Give other motorists time and space to respond to you.
- Use lane positioning to be seen; ride in the part of a lane where you are most visible to the traffic at hand.
- Watch for turning vehicles. (Yes this is in here twice.)
- Signal your next move in advance.
- Avoid weaving between lanes.
- Pretend you're invisible, and ride extra defensively.
- Do not ride when you are tired or under the influence of alcohol or other drugs.
- Know and follow the rules of the road, and stick to the speed limit.

- Drink plenty of water. Wind will dehydrate you quickly, and you could become dizzy and sleepy. Hydrate often.
- Remember that non-riders do not know the limitations of your bike. They could assume you can dodge or brake more quickly than you really can. So, leave as much space around you as you possibly can.
- Give way to the cage that wants in your spot. Yes, you have a right to it and he does not. He will take it anyway, so what can you do about it? Bluff? Crash? Threaten? Attack? That would be worse than taking a knife to a gunfight. *Editor: Recent indications are that judges consider it our fault that we ride motorcycles, and if we get injured or killed when hit it is because our choice was to take the risk, not because the cage driver is accountable even when at fault. Except for a small fine.*

### Know your bike and how to use it:

- New riders should get formal training and more experienced riders should take refresher courses.
- Rain makes a bigger difference for a motorcycle. WE don't have windshield washers for one thing. Skidding on two wheels presents extreme hazard to a rider. The condition of your tires is of paramount importance. Let your tires wear to far and the next rainstorm could kill you. Want your life riding on worn tires?
- Check for dry rot. Your tire may have good tread yet blow out because it is old. There is no better investment in safety on a motorcycle than obtaining the very best tires available and replacing them at the first sign of excessive wear or age. Take it from one who has been there. A front wheel blowout will bring you down hard.
- Keep an eye on those little windows in your brake master cylinders. If you see air or particles, that brake could fail or become mushy. It might even lock up if the particles affect the hydraulic expansion characteristics.
- New Rider Practice. Develop your riding techniques before going into heavy traffic. Know how to handle your bike in conditions such as wet or sandy roads, high winds, and uneven surfaces.

Please Ride Sober! Please Ride Safe!



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